UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/257
S/26070
12 July 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Item 79 of the preliminary list*
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 12 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated 8 July 1993 from Mr. Alfred Serreqi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, to Mrs. Margaretha af Ugglas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and Chairman-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 79 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Thanas SHKURTI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 8 July 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and Chairman-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

The deep concern of the Government of my country at the alarming situation created after the refusal by the Belgrade authorities to extend the mandate of the long duration missions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to Kosova, Sandjak and Vojvodina is the reason I am addressing this letter to you.

I fully share your opinion that the decision of the Government of Serbia not to extend the Memorandum of Understanding for the CSCE mission is to be deplored. Such a decision creates open possibilities for the escalation of dangerous situations and instability; moreover, it demonstrates once again the lack of good will and the war-mongering aims of the Belgrade authorities.

Our deep concern stems from the course of tragic events and killings, provocative incidents, maltreatment and general isolation of which the Albanian population in Kosova has been a target. In the opinion of my Government, all these acts speak for a deliberate plan against the Albanian population. Thus, the sole international presence in Kosova is being eliminated, which means that the terrorizing Serb policy of ethnic cleansing will no longer have any witnesses.

The absence of preventive missions in Kosova makes imminent the danger for the spill-over of the conflict. It would be in the interest not only of the neighbouring countries but of all of Europe that the vacuum already created by such a decision be avoided, so that the international community can keep under control and prevent the conflict. In this connection, I would like to repeat the request of the Government of Albania that you, in the context of your relations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, consider the possibility of a United Nations presence in Kosova.

Albania was one of the first countries that asked for such missions to be sent because it was convinced that they have an essential role to play by preventing Serbs from further escalating the ultimate suppression of Albanians there and by restraining uncontrolled Serb violence. It is to be noted with satisfaction that such conclusions were reached in the meetings of the Senior Officials of the CSCE as well as in the meeting of the Council in Stockholm, which unanimously supported the activities of the missions, judging them to be effective in coping with and reporting on the grave situations in the region. Being aware of the effectiveness of these missions, the CSCE has demanded the extension of their mandate and an increase in their number. My Government has evaluated this as a reasonable demand and has not spared its efforts to this end.

The opinion of my Government is that the presence of the CSCE missions in Kosova, Sandjak and Vojvodina must not be considered as a concession that Belgrade is making to the CSCE, but on the contrary, it constitutes assistance

of the international community to overcome the crisis and avoid an unprecedented blood-bath and genocide.

In expressing my gratitude for your personal commitment for finding a solution to this issue, I would like to voice my strong support for the recent message you conveyed to the Belgrade authorities, hoping that it will contribute to the renewal of the missions' mandate.

The continuous aggravation of the situation in Kosova and the recent decision of Belgrade to hinder the extension of the mandate of the missions, create new circumstances which make necessary the maximal and urgent intensification of your efforts in the CSCE and other international forums, generating in this way all the respective mechanisms in order to exert the strongest international pressure on Serbia to change its decision.